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Senate Bill 249, An Act Concerning the Remediation of the Raymark Superfund Site in Stratford
Senator Kevin Kelly
February 23, 2011-02-18

Good Morning Chairmen Meyer and Roy, Ranking Members Roraback and Chapin. I am the state senator representing the Town of Stratford. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in favor of *Senate Bill 249, An Act Concerning the Remediation of the Raymark Superfund Site in Stratford*. This bill would require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to report on the potential sources of revenue available to fund the remediation of the Raymark Superfund site.

For those who are not familiar with the issue, the Raymark Superfund Site is comprised of about twenty properties in Stratford containing toxic waste from the company Raymark Industries, which operated from on East Main Street in Stratford for about 70 years. They made brakes, clutches, and other manufacturing parts. They used a system of lagoons around the area to dispose of waste—much of which seeped into the soil and contaminated it with various chemicals. In the 1990's, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) capped and remediated the main site, and many of the most polluted residential properties. However, there are still about a dozen locations around Stratford that contain unremediated contaminated soil, which have been labeled "Superfund Sites."

In response to an EPA proposal that included digging up contaminated soil from these polluted sites and consolidating them in 1-3 residential neighborhoods in South Stratford, former Senator Dan DeBicella and former Representative John Harkins worked with your committee in 2008 to pass legislation prohibiting the EPA from consolidating Raymark waste next to residential areas.

This legislation forced the EPA back to the table to identify viable alternatives to residential consolidation. Although they recently presented a plan that addresses a handful of the properties, Stratford remains steadfast in their request for a comprehensive plan from EPA that encompasses all properties, along with a cost estimate.

It is imperative that the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) take this step towards reaching that final plan by exploring all possible sources of revenue to fund this clean-up effort. I fully understand the fiscal crisis we are facing and understand that sufficient funding is not readily available for remediation. However, at the very least, we owe it to the Town of Stratford and its residents to get this project on the DEP's

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priority list to identify funding sources.

As you can imagine, the process of cleaning up Raymark waste has been a roller-coaster ride for the Town of Stratford. Residents have fought tirelessly to preserve the health and safety of their families. At the same time, they have been present at the negotiation table every step of the way, and have made compromises in many areas in order to reach consensus. They deserve nothing short of our best efforts to ensure that every possible funding source is explored.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you this morning. I urge the committee's favorable consideration.